



## San Juan Public Lands Center

15 Burnett Court  
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970 247-4874

[www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan)  
[www.co.blm.gov/sjra/index.html](http://www.co.blm.gov/sjra/index.html)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 14, 2002

### PORTION OF COLUMBINE RANGER DISTRICT CLOSED TO PUBLIC ENTRY BECAUSE OF MISSIONARY RIDGE FIRE

As of Friday, June 14, 2002, San Juan National Forest officials have closed a portion of the Columbine Ranger District to public entry because of the encroaching Missionary Ridge Fire ([see accompanying map](#)). The closure area is bordered:

- ❑ on the east and north by the Vallecito Trail (# 529), Johnson Creek Trail (#504), and Needle Creek Trail (#504), but does not include the trails. Camping is allowed within 300 feet of the above trails.
- ❑ on the west by the Animas River Trail (#675) but does not include the trail, and camping is allowed within 300 feet of the trail. The closure boundary continues south along the east side of the Animas River following the Forest boundary.
- ❑ on the south by the Forest boundary to within one mile of Vallecito Reservoir, and then north to the Weminuche Wilderness boundary back to the Vallecito Trailhead.

Trails still open:

- ❑ Vallecito, Needle Creek, Johnson Creek, Animas River, Purgatory Flats trails.

Trails closed until further notice:

- ❑ Stevens Creek, Haflin Creek, Durango Hills Access to Missionary Ridge, Missionary Ridge trail, Red Creek, First Fork, Shearer Creek, Youngs Canyon, Burnt Timber, Freeman Creek to Endlich Mesa, Endlich Mesa, Lime Mesa, and City Reservoir.

Signs are being placed at trailheads and trail junctures identifying the closure area. The purpose is to protect public health and safety during the Missionary Ridge Fire. Only the following are exempt from this order:

- ❑ Federal, state, or local official, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- ❑ Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

Violations of the closure order is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for a corporation and/or up to six months imprisonment.

For more information, contact the San Juan Public Lands Center, 15 Burnett Court, Durango, 970 247-4874.

**ATTENTION: EXTREME FIRE DANGER**  
Exhibit 'A' to Fire Restriction Order # SJ-2002-03

